the Link

Friday, December 4, 1992
Volume 13, Number 21

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

COVER BY BUFFY RHODENIZER CHILDERHOSE

AGENDA

The Agenda is a FREE service to publicize Concordia-related events. Space priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info. at our office, room H-649 in the Hall Building, or mail it in, indicating AGENDA on the envelope. Deadlines are 5 pm Friday for Tuesday issues, and 5pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Wednesday, December 2

Benefit for CKHQ - the Kahnesatake Mohawk Radio Station. Performing: Bagg Street Klezmer Band, Shingi and the Rap Poets, Rhythm Activism, and more! At the Union Francaise - 429 Viger St. Presented by the Regroupement de Solidarité avec les autochtones. Info: 982-6606.

Concordia Queer Collective: general meeting. 5pm, in room P-102 (2020 Mackay).

Sunday, December 6

Healing Ceremony for Women: women who are the survivors of violence... Women who want to support their sisters in healing... Women who would like to are invited to → participate in the ceremony through performing or leading music; or dance; or reading a poem or story, orginial or borrowed. Please bring a small stone which you can leave behind as part of the ceremony. At the Loyola Campus Centre, 1pm. Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, Campus Ministry, 848-3585; or Margot Lacroix, Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Monday, December 7

Ami Québec, the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, holds evening support groups for parents, spouses, siblings and adult children of the mentally ill. 7:30pm, at 4333 Cote Ste. Catherine. Info: 486-1448.

GENERAL

Incest Survivors Group: a counselling group for incest survivors to examine how incest has affected their lives and begin the work towards recovery. Membership determined by a preliminary interview. To be held January 13 to April 28. (Fee$20) Please call Counselling and Development at 848-3545.

Turkey drive: AIDS Community Care, Montreal (ACCM) is holding a turkey drive to fill holiday food baskets. If you can donate a turkey or money, please call 485-2495 or 939-0075. Tax receipts supplied.

Buddy System for Disabled Students. Wanted: Students with (in)visible disabilities whose recreational need are not currently being met. Call Tamara @ 487-1583 for info.

Continued on page 12

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATES: 20¢ per word for Concordia students (CUSA), 25¢ per word for other students and business ads. Deadlines are 5pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 5 pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Come to room H-649 in the Hall building and fill out one of our painless forms. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-5. Ads must be accompanied by payment, or they will not run. We do NOT take classified ads by phone or by fax.

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Continued on page 4

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"World's Longest Day" has even longer list of debts

by Colin Niven

Concordia University may have to cover a $15,000 debt incurred by the organizers of a student-run telethon that was supposed to raise money for two Montreal AIDS groups.

Last September, Concordia's TV club, CUTV, broadcast the World's Longest Day. The 60-and-a-half hour telethon aimed to raise $40,000 for Cactus Montreal and AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM).

But it's been two and a half months and the groups haven't received a penny.

The project had been in the works since March but the show's producer said he only became aware of the law which says 65 per cent of the funds raised during a telethon must go to the charities, after the telecast ended on Sept. 18.

"We budgeted for a certain amount, expecting to bring in twice as much as we eventually did. Then we were told we could only use a certain amount to pay the bills," said Colin Kish.

The World's Longest Day cost over $44,000 to produce, most of which was used to pay for the rental of TV equipment and an advanced television production mobile.

The club raised close to $20,000 in cash contributions to produce the show and another $4,000 in product and service donations, such as free car rentals and hotel accommodations.

The telethon raised $19,000 in pledges for AIDS groups. The Concordia community contributed almost three-quarters of the pledges and the rest came from private companies.

But only half of the pledges were honoured and over one-third of the cash raised will be used to cover the telethon's operating costs, Kish said. This leaves a debt of about $15,000.

"We raised $10,000—that's what we know for sure. Sixty-five per cent is going to very worthy causes in the city," said Kish.

"Of course, there is this minor thing with the debt, which is unfortunate."

Kish said a cheque for $1,600 will go out to ACCM soon. The rest of the pledges are tied up at accounts, he added.

Telethon called unfortunate

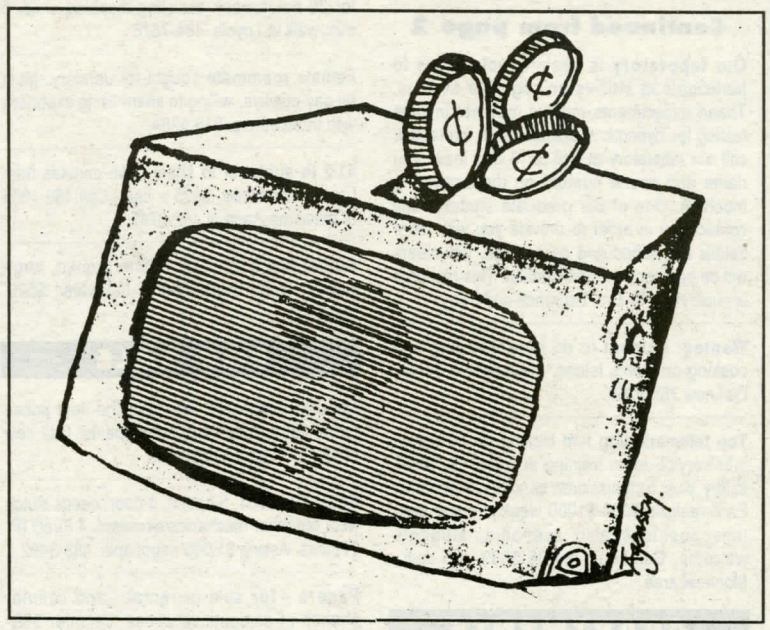
Beginning noon on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 173 local bands and 74 informations groups filled 60-and-a-half hours of community TV air time. The broadcast ended Friday, Sept. 18 at 12:30 a.m.

The Guinness Book of World Records is calling the event "the longest continuous television transmission under a single director."

But associate vice-rector of services (student life), Donald Boisvert is calling it "unfortunate."

Boisvert signed contracts for the rental of television equipment and opened an account to which expenses could be charged.

He said he signed the contracts because Kish and the director of the



show, David Jedeikin, couldn't.

"This was done in good faith and with the full expectation that the money would be raised," said Boisvert. "I'm quite irritated by the rather cavalier attitude of the individuals who put this project on, which was a very laudable and worthy thing.

"I find it unfortunate that both Colin and David want to pass the proverbial buck," he added.

Boisvert said he would not have signed contracts for the World's Longest Day if he had known Kish and Jedeikin had formed a company, called Surreal Productions, to be used as a tax break for the telethon.

The scheme fell through though, because the tax laws governing telethons changed last year.

Kish says the company was never incorporated.

"The production company was formed so we wouldn't have to pay taxes," he said. "It doesn't exist. We got a tax number but it didn't work out."

Organizers pull out

Kish and Jedeikin resigned from CUTV immediately after the World's Longest Day.

On Wednesday, Kish said he no longer had time for CUTV and the telethon and was afraid of failing because of a heavy course load. Jedeikin was not available to comment.

In a letter addressed to Wagner Rulli, acting executive producer of CUTV, Kish and Jedeikin wrote, "We don't want to appear to be 'ducking out' because of the deficit situation."

Rulli said the TV broadcast was Kish and Jedeikin's project alone and CUTV will accept no responsibility for the debt.

CUSA co-president Phil Toone says Kish and Jedeikin are the only ones who have intimate knowledge of the telethon's finances. Efforts to locate a working budget for the show

continued on page 14

Artists rally around Mohawk radio

Downtown Montreal will be the scene of a musical benefit tonight to raise funds for tiny CKHQ (101.7 FM).

CKHQ is the Kanehsatake community radio station. During the Mohawk crisis in 1990, the station played a key role in keeping listeners both inside and outside the community informed.

These days volunteer staffers at Mohawk-run CKHQ focus on preserving the culture and language of their community.

But according to one of the station coordinators, CKHQ is barely getting by due to a lack of funding and volunteers.

"We started off in 1987 and have basically come full-circle," said Marie David. "When we started off we had many volunteers. From 22, we now have a core group of about five people who do everything."

David said with little funding it is getting harder and harder to keep going. People can't afford to donate the time they used to, she said.

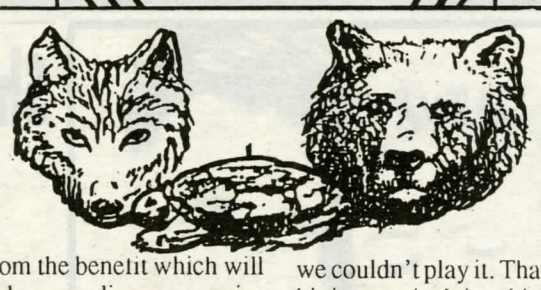
"We used to have money for transportation for our volunteers but we can't afford it anymore," she said. "All our equipment's breaking down. We're down to one cassette player. All our headphones are taped together."

According to David, it has been difficult to find financial support for the station.

"We don't have any advertising," she said. "It's a tough market to sell. We used to have radio bingo in Oka, but after the crisis the community was not as supportive.

"We recently got a grant from the Department of Communications and that's going towards paying our bills. Hopefully we'll get some money from the benefit which will go towards upgrading our equipment."

CKHQ 101.7FM



Tonight's benefit will feature singer/songwriter Karen Young, Native poets from the Mohawk Nation, The Bagg Street Klezmer Band, rap duo Shingi and the Rap Poet, Mai Jing, and agit-prop band Rhythm Activism.

"A few of the performers, like Karen Young, live close to the community," said David. "Karen had offered to do some free shows for us. She's very supportive. People became interested in different ways. Norman Nawrocki (of Rhythm Activism) gave us a tape by his band but because of the shape our equipment was in, we couldn't play it. That sparked his interest in doing this benefit."

Mohawk Radio Benefit, tonight at the Union Française 429 Viger est (corner Berri) at 7:30 p.m. Contribution $7.

—Stephen Smegelski

Report on civil engineering tension called over-reaction

by Debbie Hum

Civil engineering students and faculty members at Concordia say an external report on the faculty of engineering and computer science does not represent their community.

The report, released in October, says the university's civil engineering department is ridden with "tensions and open conflicts" and recommends the department be phased out over the next five years.

But civil engineering professor Adel Hanna says the report does not fairly represent the department.

"The report is the product of the review committee and two external reviewers. It was over-reacting and exaggerating in some points," said Hanna. "We thought we would get a draft of the report to see if it was a fair representation before it was published, but that was not the case.

"We were completely disconnected from the report until it was published."

The report says racial tensions linger in the department from a 1983 staff meeting at which someone opposed hiring a francophone lecturer because "if you did they would soon take the place over."

But Hanna said the report reflects the feelings of a "very small group of people who are unhappy."

He admitted the civil engineering department has some problems but said since a new chairperson took over in June 1990, the department has been slowly improving.

"It is in our memories as an event but it's no longer influencing the department," said Hanna of the 1983 incident. "It's behind us now."

Hanna said since Oscar Pekau became chairperson of civil engineering, the department has given priority to francophones and women for teaching positions and enrolment.

The recommendation to dissolve the civil engineering department is "not feasible," said Hanna. The university should instead consider merginge the civil engineering department with the Centre for Building Studies, he said.

"Merging the two departments will create a strong academic unit. There would be shared resources and instead of competing against each other (for enrolment), we would be working together," he said.

Mark Pepin, the V-P Internal for the Engineering and Computer Science Association (ECA), said abolishing the civil engineering department would be a bad idea.

"The tensions are not a worthwhile reason to abolish the department," said Pepin, a third-year building sciences student. "It would look a lot better if they tried to solve the problems rather than completely annihilate the department because of them."

Pepin said phasing out the civil engineering department might benefit the Centre for Building Studies but said if the roles of each department were clearly defined, there would not be as many conflicts.

The dean of the engineering and computer science faculty, M.N.S. Swamy declined to comment on the report.

WANTED

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Continued from page 2

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Graduate Student Get-togethers, School of Graduate Studies. The academic year 1992-93 is the inaugural year for the School of Graduate Studies. It will prove to be exciting and will provide us with the opportunity to initiate projects, such as promoting a lecture series by visiting speakers and other similar ventures. to forge stronger links between faculty and students and to stimulate scholarly debate within the community. In addition, Dean Martin Kusy would like to meet with graduate students so we have arranged "get-togethers" for this purpose. There will be two such sessions each semester at our Graduate Administrative offices, 2145 Mackay Street. They will be held from 6pm to 8pm on the following dates: First semester, Tuesday, October 6, 1992, Thursday, November 12, 1992. Second semester: Wednesday, February 3, 1993, Monday, March 8, 1993. Because our space is limited, I ask that you please reserve one of the following dates by contacting Ms. Kali Sakell at 848-3803 if you are interested in attending. We look forward to seeing you.

Prayer of application to the Holy Spirit you who solve all problems, who light all loads, so I can attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and to forget all evil against me, and in all instances of my life, you are with me. I want this short prayer to thank you for all things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with your External glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. -C.B. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the favour requested will be granted even if it may appear difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favour is granted without mentioning the favour. Only your initials should appear at the bottom.

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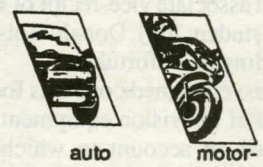
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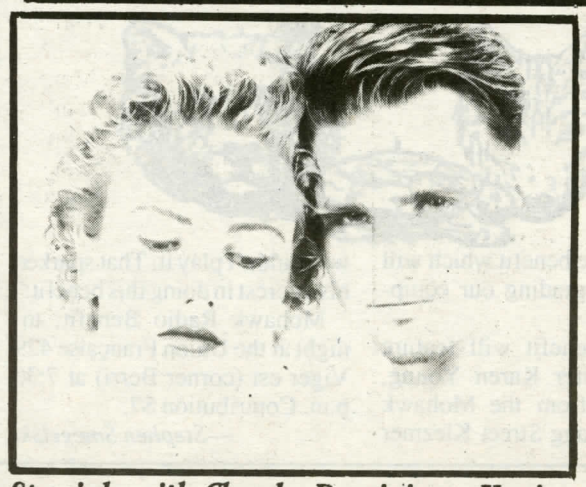
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Women and men fight male violence —separately

by Lisa Ariemma

Men's and women's groups agree that more must be done to combat violence against women but they use different methods to achieve this.

"There is violence in our society," said Bonnie Miller, a self-defence instructor and animator at the Montreal Assault Prevention Centre. "Women can take responsibility for themselves. I can't change men, so I changed myself."

The non-profit organization teaches women how to prevent violence. The centre offers seminars for all groups that are vulnerable to assault.

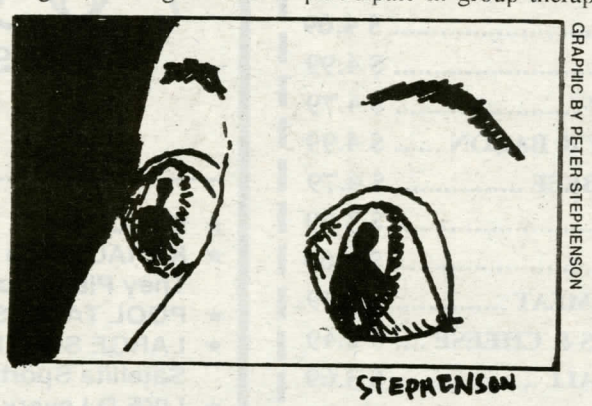
"We try to help people recognize their inner strength," said Miller. "We're teaching women who are in wheelchairs. We're teaching women who are blind."

The centre collaborates with men's organizations such as Pro-gam, which provides therapy for men who are violent.

Miller said she would like to see such groups educate men on non-violent ways to deal with the pressures of everyday life.

"Education is a very broad term to use but that's it," said Miller. "Education starts with little boys, telling them that it's not acceptable to hit." They have to learn that not using force is "what being strong is," she added.

Steven Bélanger is a psychologist at Pro-gam, an organization which focuses on prevention and education. The group conducts workshops for schools, employees, hospitals and community centres but its main focus is providing therapy for men who are violent.



GRAPHIC BY PETER STEPHENSON

"We talk about the patriarchal structure of society and about the dynamic of violence," said Bélanger. "We want men to realize they have a problem."

Each week, about 32 men take part in Pro-gam group therapy. The registration fee is based on the individual's salary and ranges from $14 per week to $72.

Charging fees proportional to salaries is common among therapy groups for men At Option, 63 men participate in group therapy. The group serves men from all walks of life.

"All social classes are represented," said therapist Jacques Broué. "A vice-president or president of a company will be sitting beside someone on social assistance. And this works well."

Broué stressed that women must continue to report assaults.

"Many men still haven't understood that it's criminal," he said. "Unfortunately, some men don't

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White ribbons aren't enough, says women's group

by Debbie Hum

A Toronto-based men's group is urging men across Canada to wear white ribbons to commemorate the massacre at the Université de Montréal in1989 but a group from the city say that's not enough.

The White Ribbon Campaign was started last year to raise awareness of male violence and as a symbol of men's opposition to men's violence against women.

The group solicits money to fund its campaign.

But a coordinator of the Montreal Assault Prevention Centre says wearing white ribbons is "not much more than a symbolic gesture."

"It's important that men are involved in opposing violence against women but my major concern is what they're doing with the money and where it's directed," said David Singleton. "If they collect donations but don't do much for the rest of the year...what are the practical benefits?"

He said the White Ribbon Campaign should not solicit money just to fund its own campaign.

"There's only so much money for groups like us," said Singleton. "I think (the White Ribbon Campaign) is under an obligation to say what they practically plan to do before they solicit money."

Singleton said men should take part in fighting violence against women through more practical work, such as forming groups that work with violent men.

But Richard Holt, a White Ribbon Campaign volunteer, says the group's fund-raising does not hurt other anti-violence organizations.

"Quite a bit of our money comes from sources which never came in contact with women's associations," said Holt. "And we avoid getting government funding, which is a traditional source of money for women's groups."

The White Ribbon Campaign keeps only enough money to cover its own expenses and then gives the rest of the donations to the Canadian Women's Foundation, he added.

Holt said members of the White Ribbon Campaign will review the group's status this January and consider becoming involved in anti-violence activism year-round.

He said he thinks about one million men across Canada are participating in the campaign this year.

Tools, not rules

Fighting back by empowering

by Ryan Robinson

More women are enrolling in self-defence courses following the recent spate of violence against women, says Bonnie Miller, an action instructor at the Montreal Assault Prevention Centre.

Miller sees the increase in enrolment as a positive step to fighting sexual assault.

"We're in a society where men have been dominant and women have been taught to be passive and weak...but women are angrier now more than ever," says Miller. "Rather than a band-aid solution, we need preventative education through accessible courses."

The centre offers a two-part self-defence course. The course teaches basic physical self-defence techniques. It also stresses preventative "tools" to help women think of different ways to respond to assaults.

Miller says it is important to break away from traditional guidelines such as not to walk alone after dark because these rules do not promote empowerment.

"Programs such as McGill's Walksafe and the proposed Concordia pilot project are instrumental in reducing the possibility of violence," she said. "(But) women should not rely on them completely while ignoring the potential of times when they are forced to walk alone."

Miller points out that about 80 per cent of sexual assaults involve men who are known to the victims. Most sexual assaults are planned and even tested in advance, she added.

University students must be especially wary of acquaintance assaults given the highly social environment of school, Miller says.

"Women can better protect themselves through self-defence, self-esteem and for women to come together and take back the right to walk freely without fear," according to the volunteers at the Concordia Women's Centre

Until recently people have only looked at how women can fight violence against women, adds centre coordinator, Margot Lacroix. The male student body at Concordia should play an equal role in combatting the problem, she says.

"Men must examine their conception of power, sexuality and the need to use their fists when women never have," says Lacroix. "They have to...educate themselves and listen more intently to women and the opinions they express."

Lacroix also says women can empower themselves by "listening more closely to other women who express a need for help and then act on it."

The Concordia Women's Centre provides an "active listening" service for abused women. The goal of the service is to eliminate the common reaction women have that they are partly to blame when they have been assaulted.

As well, volunteers from the centre sometimes accompany women to class or the Metro.

"If a woman feels uncomfortable in any way about a situation, then it is likely that something is wrong and should be dealt with seriously," Lacroix says.

And although there is a lot of room for improvement, Lacroix says she believes positive steps are being taken both within and outside the university.

"It just takes a long time when you're dealing with a large institution like (Concordia)," she says.

Corrections

In the last issue of *the Link* (Dec. 1) the cover photo should have been credited to Nikol Mikus. Photos on pages 6 and 7 should have been credited to Kate Kung. *The Link* apologizes for the omissions.

In the article "Cases of women with AIDS catching up with men's", p.6, Deborah Carruthers was incorrectly identified as the source of statistics and research on women and AIDS. The source of the information was actually Health and Welfare Canada. Also, Carruthers is a volunteers for AIDS Community Care Montreal (ACCM) and was not speaking on behalf of the organization.

Women depicted as victims in mass media

by Masha Giller

Consumers must not accept the violence and sexism they see in the media, Katherine Cukier and Michel Pichette told students at Concordia last month.

Cukier and Pichette, were at the Hall building auditorium to provide answers for a panel discussion called "Entertainment? Or an Education in Violence?"

Cukier is a member of MediaWatch, a group which monitors the media and protests sexist or violent imagery they find. To bring her point home to students, Cukier showed a series of slides.

"We all start to see the world this way," said Cukier of a series of ads for jeans, orange juice and perfume. She stressed it wasn't really any one particular image that she found problematic, but the cumulative effect of these images.

The pictures showed passive women and vigorously active men.

"Certainly when we talk about how men are socialized, and it still is true today, there are heavy sanctions on men who express weakness, men who express need, men who express an inability to control their universe," Cukier said.

The ads "teach us to see women's bodies in a particular way—as something to be used and held in contempt," she added.

Cukier also examined women's roles as victims in violent films and videos.

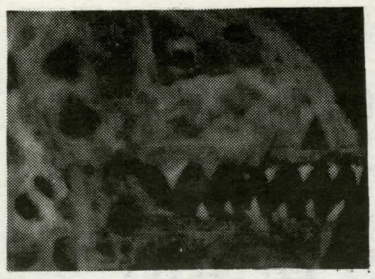
"In films and music videos, we see eroticized violence all the time...and then a love scene next to it....It's something we're becoming more and more accustomed to seeing uncritically, or becoming complacent with it," she said. "Violence is often, in the media, the only expression of emotion that we sanction for men.

"I think it's an enormous problem."

And dealing with that problem is difficult because few viewers question what they see.

"Most viewers who spend 24, 25, hours in front of the screen each week...consider television as untouchable," said Michel Pichette, Cukiers' co-panelist. "People who make television are like gods, they

continued on page 14



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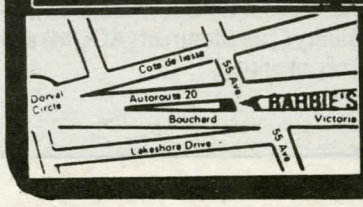

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NDP government abandons pledge to freeze fees

Ontario scraps student grants, hikes tuition

by Monique Beaudin

OTTAWA (CUP)—Ontario students are angry with their provincial government's decision to cut most grants from its student aid program.

Richard Allen, the minister for colleges and universities, announced last Thursday that the province would cut grants from its aid program, but make more money available for loans.

The government is making $800 million available for students next year—up $130 million from this year.

Students who qualify for more than $5,570 in loans will get a break. The government will only require them to pay back that amount after they graduate. Any money owed over the $5,570 limit will be forgiven.

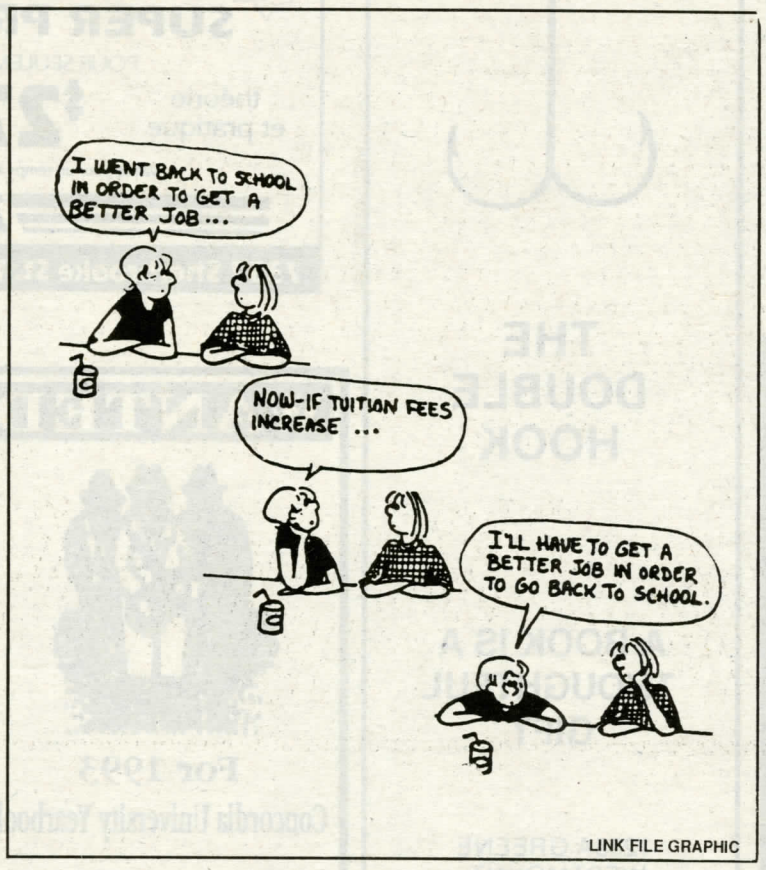
But student leaders say that won't be much of a break because last year, students received an average of only $4,861 in grants and loans combined.

Allen also announced that tuition fees would increase across the province —by $60 at colleges, and by $132 at universities. That contradicts the government's 1990 pre-election promise to freeze tuition fees.

Ken Craft, chairperson of the Ontario Federation of Students, said Allen should resign.

"I wouldn't be heartbroken if he left," Craft said. "This government seems hell-bent on dismantling the post-secondary education system in Ontario."

But Allen said the government has had to deal with a fast-growing demand for student aid and a sharp decrease in government revenue.


I WENT BACK TO SCHOOL IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER JOB...
NOW-IF TUITION FEES INCREASE ...
I'LL HAVE TO GET A BETTER JOB IN ORDER TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL.
LINK FILE GRAPHIC

"In order to maintain an affordable student aid program, we had to do some re-organization," he said.

And he said the seven per cent tuition fee increase won't amount to a "hill of beans."

"That money represents two per cent of a university student's living costs for the year," he said. "I don't think it's going to make that much of a difference."

Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren announced last week that provincial funding for colleges and universities will be capped at 1992-93 levels for the next academic year. The government had promised a two per cent increase in funding for the 1993-94 academic year.

Students across Ontario are already planning ways to let the government know how they feel about it's decision.

At Nipissing University College in North Bay, students say they won't vote for the NDP government in the next provincial election and are signing a petition to send to Queen's Park.

And at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, students are writing letters to Allen describing how the grants cuts will affect them.

Dave Wells, student council president at Brock University and a member of the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance said he thinks switching to predominantly-loans student aid program will deter people from attending colleges and universities.

"If people perceive that they'll come out with a huge, huge debtload, there will be a decrease in interest in attending college or university," he said.

But Allen said when the government held meetings with focus groups and consultants, they found students would rather make an investment in post-secondary education than not have access to it.

The decision to cut grants came after months of agonizing, said Richard Jackson, manager of policy and communications for the ministry of colleges and universities.

He said the government had to decide between funding fewer students, reducing the amount of money available for each student, and spreading the amount of money available between more students.

"This was the best possible balance between the needs of students and the province's ability to fund them," Jackson said.

GRAPHIC BY I. NOVIKOV

Five Ontario women on trial for baring breasts

TORONTO (CUP)—Five Ontario women are on trial in Kitchener, Ont. this week for baring their breasts at a rally last summer.

The women were charged with committing an indecent act after they bared their breasts during a protest last July 18 in support of University of Guelph student Gwen Jacobs.

Jacobs was convicted of the same charge last year after she took off her shirt in the streets of Guelph, Ont.

"The issue is not about taking a blouse off in a park," said Anne Hansen, a University of Toronto secretary charged with indecency. "It's about equality under the law, and taking ownership of our bodies. I feel that I have the right to define my own sexuality."

The women are being represented in provincial court by Toronto lawyer Clayton Ruby.

Kay Armatage, a U of T women's studies professor, testified Nov. 24 as an expert witness for the defence.

She said the prosecution tried to discredit her testimony by asking whether women should be allowed to go to work topless.

"I said that Canadians could tolerate women going topless in public and that bare breasts wouldn't be seen everywhere, like shopping malls," she said. "Nobody's saying women are going to walk around with tits hanging out."

She added the law has "dreadful ramifications" on a woman's self-image.

"There is a deformative effect on a woman's sense of identity if we're told to view a woman's body as a sexual object. Although women are getting more physical freedom in the 20th century, anorexia and bulimia are clearly an effect of this continual regulation of women's bodies," she said.

Penny Vanesterik, a York University anthropologist who also testified for the defence, said the protest was an attempt to reduce the larger obstacles to women's equality under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"Not giving women the same choices as men about their attire is clear discrimination," she said.

But Catherine Dorton, a member of U of T's Women's Centre collective, said although she supports the women who protested, she doesn't

continued on page 14

Lack of trained doctors to perform abortions

by Jennifer Ditchburn

Medical schools are not training enough doctors to perform abortions, says the executive coordinator of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL).

"What is wrong that doctors don't have the compassion to help women by performing abortions?" says Jane Holmes. This shows a general lack of interest in women's issues, she adds.

Holmes says at present, women who go into medicine might learn the procedure because they identify with women's issues. But she says medical schools should integrate abortion into their curriculum.

"Students do what is part of the compulsory program...it would be a great boost for women if it were mandatory," says Holmes.

But the head of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges says this is "ludicrous."

Dr. Harvey Barkun says those who perform abortions are specialists in gynecology and obstetrics, and the small number of doctors performing abortions is due to the limited number of students who enter the field.

Barkun says the issue is not whether or not doctors are being exposed to abortion, but whether they choose to perform them later on.

"It's an individual decision," he says.

But when doctors decide to perform abortion, they often are not up to date.

Dr. Henry Morgentaler, at the forefront of the abortion debate, says doctors are not taught new procedures.

"Medical establishments are very conservative and need a lot of prodding to look into new techniques," says Morgentaler. "There has been tremendous progress in this area."

Morgentaler says he has difficulty convincing medical establishments they do not have to administer a general anesthetic to abortion patients. He says a local anesthesia has many "obvious" advantages, such as reduced blood loss and the elimination of an anesthetician's services.

At McGill Medical School, obstetrics and gynecology students are given a lecture on the abortion procedure, and are then shown it during residency.

But Jane Holmes of CARAL says if gynecologists in hospitals choose not to perform abortions, there is no one left to perform the operation.

"The hospital board can then vote to take an anti-choice stance," she says.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada says there are approximately 1,500 doctors of obstetrics and gynecology working in Canada.

But Holmes says only 325 doctors are taking on the bulk of abortions in Canada. Last year, about 90,000 women in the country requested abortions.

Men look for solutions to violence

continued from page 5

Broué stressed that women must continue to report assaults.

"Many men still haven't understood that it's criminal," he said. "Unfortunately, some men don't understand it's criminal without the police."

Joanna Broadhurst, a McGill student working at the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre said while it is important to educate and intervene with aggressors, priority must be given to the treatment of victims.

"At the centre we take a feminist stance which assumes sexual assault is a continuum of our society," said Broadhurst. "It's not an aberration, it represents our society."

At the Concordia Women's Centre, empowering women also takes precedence over educating aggressors.

"We want to put our energies into women organizing, women doing and women planning," said Cathy Sisler, a part-time coordinator at the centre.

"We don't want to spend a lot of time educating men."

That's just what Nicolas Doyon of Montréal Men Against Violence is working on.

"I find it really too bad that women have to change their ways and restrict themselves because of men," said Doyon. "It's up to the guys to change because that's where the problem really is."

—Lisa Ariemma

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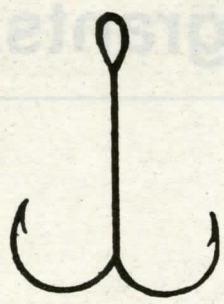

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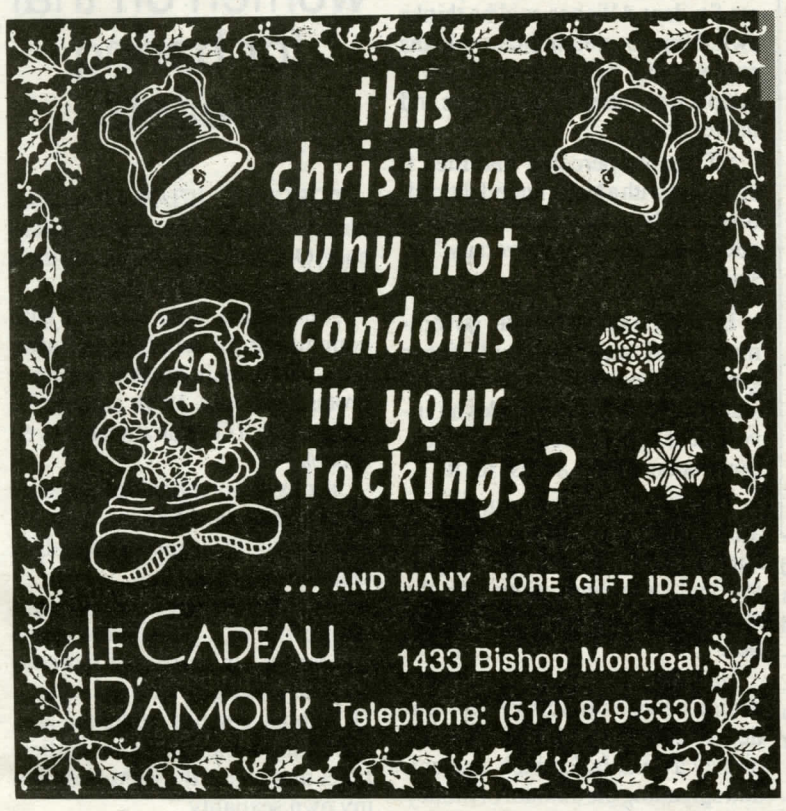
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Collectors' item: You have before you the last *Link* letters page of 1992. Our regular letters pages resume in January.

The Link welcomes letters to the editor. We are committed to printing all letters we receive which are: not more than 400 words, typed legibly, not libelous, sexist, racist, homophobic, ageist, or classist. Letters should be signed and include a phone number for verification. If necessary, anonymity can be arranged through prior consultation with the editor.

GSA not 'congratulated'

I would like to correct a statement attributed to Anser Qureshi, the GSA's Vice-President (Advocacy), in the article entitled "Men rule grad association' (*Link*, Nov. 27). He claims that the "sexual harassment committee" wrote to the GSA "congratulating" them for appointing a man to the committee.

What actually happened was that I, (not my Advisory Committee) wrote to Kristen Gilbert of CUSA, in response to a memo from her on the subject of GSA representation on committees, which I copied to the GSA. In this memo, I explained that while I supported the idea that the GSA should strive for more gender-balanced representation on university committees, I was quite happy to have a male representative from the GSA on my Advisory Committee, since all but one of the other members were women, including the two from CUSA.

It is true that the great majority of people who seek advice from my office are women, which is why I believe the University appointed a female Sexual Harassment Officer. The role of the Advisory Committee on Sexual Harassment, however is to assist in the development of prevention strategies and educational progammes, as well as to monitor the application of the Policy. For these purposes, it seems to me important that there is input from men: if men do not participate in actions which are intended to change male attitudes towards women in academia, the battle to eradicate sexism and sexual harassment from the campus is going to be longer and harder than any of us would like to think.

Sally Spilhaus
Sexual Harassment Officer

CUSA space wasted

As a member of the Concordia community, I feel that extracurricular clubs and associations add immeasurably to the quality of student life. Unfortunately, most of these clubs and associations are desperately short of space, especially at Loyola. That is why it came as a shock to myself when I noticed that there are four rooms devoted to CUSA which are *never* used by CUSA.

These rooms with a little bit of housecleaning would be ideal for clubs or associations whose primary base of support is at the Loyola campus. Perhaps, CUSA could find it in its heart to devote some mental space to the Loyola campus and temporarily assign these rooms to the appropriate clubs or associations. In this manner CUSA can keep insure (*sic*) that if it decides to become active at Concordia sometime in the future, there will be space for their administrators. Meanwhile clubs and associations can utilize this extra space which is not presently being used.

Of course this suggestion is sensible and practical so don't hold your breath expecting CUSA to implement it. That would set a precedent.

Steven Siciliano
4th year biochemistry

Ritual abuse a perversion of Wicca

This is in answer to the ritual abuse survivor (*Link*, Nov. 10): I will assume that you truly have endured ritual abuse, and that you are not a fundamentalist trying to eliminate non-Christian religions.

There certainly are a few deranged individuals who comitt the atrocities you have described. I am truly sorry that your parents were such individuals. But we do not call them Witches. We call them psychopaths.

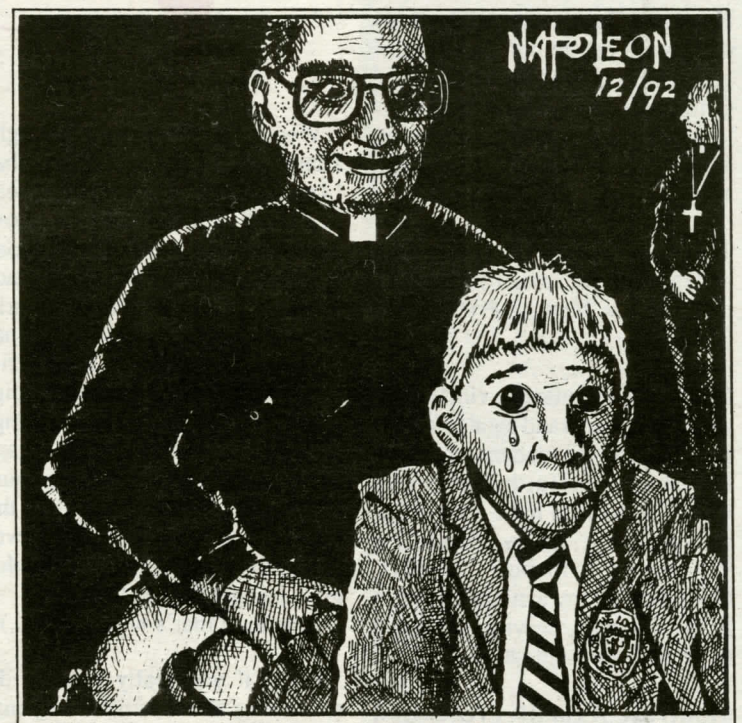
You say we celebrate the same holidays as these monsters of cruelty. I say THEY are the ones who stole our celebrations, twisted and perverted them. I can't blame them . Christians did the same—Christmas is the winter solstice celebration. The Romans and Greeks celebrated it as the rebirth of the Sun God. "And unto us a child is born" was written by the Egyptians about the birth of Horus, the Young Lord, a few millenia before you know who. Easter is the celebration of Eostre, Goddess of Spring. I could go on...

It is true, Druids did perform human sacrifice. We're not proud of it, but then, so did every other major religion, including the monotheistic ones. Do you know how many people, mostly women, were sacrificed to the Prince of Peace during the Inquistion? Conservative estimates are around 300 000 (three hundred thousands)!

I'll conclude this reply with a sad example of Christian ritual abuse, a quote from a 1988 newspaper article:

"BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A woman accused of gouging out a 16-year-old boy's eye to rid him of demons cannot be called an exorcist during her trial despite telling police she performed six exorcisms, a judge decided."

Linda Demissy



Just GSA no to gender imbalance

Though I am pleased that *the Link* has drawn attention to the Graduate Students' Association's highly irresponsible nominations (Nov. 27, "Men rule grad association"), I was misinterpreted and misquoted in the article and would like the opportunity to make some corrections.

I am aware that this year's GSA has nominated the *occasional* woman to university committees, but men are vastly over-represented (nearly 80% of total nominations by my calculations). Also significant is that there are *no* women representatives on Senate or Board of Governors—the highest governing bodies at Concordia. There is no excuse for this imbalance when one considers that 44% of graduate students are women. Perhaps the GSA's all-male executive feels no urge to share the power.

I was quoted as saying that I am "not opposed to the concept of men to represent women". In fact I am quite opposed to the practice, and feel that gender equity on committees is the essential first step towards addressing women's concerns. Surely the GSA must recognize that they are not adequately representing their constituency.

Besides the GSA's unwillingness to give women a voice on general committees, they have nominated a man from their own executive to sit on the Status of Women Comittee and the Graduate Studies Gender Equity Committee. Though these committees were established to fight discrimination against women, the GSA felt no need to look beyond their own office for a woman who might speak for female graduate students. This shows an appalling lack of understanding and resepct for women's issues.

I am not challenging the GSA's right to make their own nominations, but I do feel it necessary to draw attention to their irresponsible practices. Perhaps some pressure by their constituent group will embarass them into getting off their butts.

Kristen Gilbert
CUSA Vice-President
(Women's Issues)

Geography lesson

While it might not be a very big deal, it nevertheless is choking to read in a university newspaper that Mecca is in Egypt.

In his review of *Malcolm X* (*the Link*, Nov. 17, pg. 11) Stephen Smegelski writes: "The final section of the film deals with X's breakoff from the Nation of Islam after his pilgrimage to the city of Mecca in Egypt..."

This error which I don't suspect is a typo has no doubt affected the credibility of an otherwise excellent review. The film does show Malcolm X in Egypt on his way to Mecca, and that is probably where the confusion arose.

For those who still don't know, Mecca is in Arabia and Rome is in Italy. Remember these facts!

Mohamad Tfali

[Ed. note: A correction for the error ran in the Nov. 24 issue.]

Keep Concordia secure

I feel compelled to respond to comments made by CUSA Co-Pres (*sic*)Charlene Nero in the article titled "Undercover security guards at work in Con U classes."

We at Concordia have had a rough year with the August 24th shooting as well further disturbing incidents of threats and violence, the last thing we need is more violence. I believe that the security dept (*sic*) is responding quite correctly by enlisting the services of undercover personnel when a student or faculty member is in danger. Ms. Nero's insinuation that such measures approach a "police state" is more than absurd, it's pathetic. The security dept of Concordia is doing what is necessary to protect us, they are not beating students over freedom of speech.

People that take the attitude that Charlene Nero has taken will complain when security employs undercover personnel to protect them, and if no personnel is employed and—God forbid—someone is attacked, they will complain that no emasures were taken to protect them in the fact of threats. What idiocy!!!!!!!!!!!!

I commend the security dept's effort to curb violence so that we at Concordia can recover from one tragedy instead of facing another.

If we have learnt anything from the tragedy of August 24th let it be to act fast when danger is present.

Allan Rosen

the Link

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• Support groups •

The NDG Senior Citizens' Council provides a support group for women of all ages living with panic attacks. Every second Thursday 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact Cheryl at 487-1311.

Centre des Femmes D'Ici et D'Ailleurs: A multi-cultural centre that acts as a resource, learning and orientation centre for women of all cultural backgrounds. 9am to 5 pm. 7736 St Denis, 495-7728.

Support Group for Young Black Single Moms with young children: NDG CLSC, anyone interested in joining the group should contact Shirley Roberts at 485-1670, 9 am to 5 pm.

Le Centre des Femmes du Plateau Mont-Royal: Un centre pour les femmes qui se sentent isolée. Le centre offre de l'information, des cours d'auto-défense, et des ateliers d'activités. Pour plus d'information appelez a compter de 13h00: 273-7412. Heures : du lundi au jeudi, de 9h00 a 17h00. Les services sont en francais et anglais, mais les ateliers sont offer en français seulement.

Centre des Femmes de Verdun: 3993 Wellington, Verdun. 767-0384 "Né du désir d'autonomie des femmes, le centre est un lieu de ressource pour les femmes de Verdun et des environ."

• Abusive situations •

ASOI — Women's Group: This is a self-help support group for women adult survivors of incest who want to break the silence. Meetings weekly at the YWCA. Call Diane Pizzuti: 866-9941.

Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families Anonymous (for women and men who have survived dysfunctional family settings) Fri. 7 pm, Sun, 2 pm. YWCA. Call Diane Pizzuti: 866-9941.

The Social Service Programme of CLSC Metro is offering a support group for battered women who are survivors of conjugal violence Info: Angela Idelson, 934-0354.

SOS Violence Conjugale/SOS Family Violence: phone services available to all in Quebec and direct references to counselling, shelters and legal help. 1-800-363-9010.

• Distress centres offering counselling and referrals •

Centre d'Aide aux Victimes d'acte Criminels: 277-9860.

Centre d'Ecoute "Le Foyer": 493-6077.

Group Emergie: 843-8025.

Centre Communautaire Multi Ethnique de Montreal Nord: 329-5044.

Comité de Femmes Haitiennes pour le Changement: 278-6528.

Kids Help Line/Jeunesse J'Ecoute: a 24 hour help line offering information, counselling, referrals for children/youth 4 to 19. 1-800-668-6868.

Secours aux Femmes: 593-6353.

Secours à vie Montreal: 847-0498.

• Sexual Assault Centres •

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre: offers a 24 hour crisis line, counselling, referrals and support groups for sexual assault victims. 934-4504.

Head and Hands: is not only a sexual assault centre but also a bilingual social service centre for youths. Offering counselling, medical services and legal information. Hours: Mon.— Thurs 10 am — 10 pm. Fri. 10 am — 5pm. 481-0277.

Trêve pour elles: offers counselling and referrals for sexual assault victims Hours Mon.— Fri 9-5 pm. 251-0323.

Mouvement contre le viol: offers support, medical and legal information, therapy for women who have been abused. Staff at the centre meet with women who have been sexually assaulted. Hours Mon.to Fri 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. 278-9383. Consultations are available at night by appointment. Services available in French and English.

Montreal Assault Prevention Centre (ACTION): offers a 15 hour self-defence course that teaches women verbal and physical defence skills 284-1212. This course is available through Concordia's Athletic department.

The McGill Sexual Assault Centre: the centre offers suppo groups, legal information and organises an out reach program wher students trained by the centre tall different faculty and associat about sexual assault. Call or dro by Mon — Fri 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. 398-2700.

• Self-defence courses •

Action Auto-Défense pour Femmes de Montréal/Espace: 284-1212.

Atélier d'arts Maritaux des Femmes des Femmes de Montréal: 596-0702.

Centre de Prevention des Agressions Sexuels: 283-1212.

Émergence — Québec. Association Feministe d'Auto-Défense: CP 128, Succ. Delorimier, H2L 3E7.

• Resources available at Concordia •

Educational Workshops for Women: Lacolle Centre for Educational Innovation: Call 848-4955

Men, listen!

Wearing Ribbons is not Enough. Thank you for acknowledging that 14 womyn were massacred last year as a result of male violence. Now do something. Besides Ribbon-Wearing. Ribbon-Wearing is not activism. Activism requires work. Allow us to define specifically what work entails: protesting, letter-writing, reading, learning, challenging, analyzing, sweating, counselling, postering, getting arrested, organizing, workshopping, putting yourself at risk, being on the line, the FRONT line, never look back, never stop, never explain, never apologize, just get the job Done!

(...at least that's what we do...)

Boys, if you really want to do something about violence against womyn first thing you need to do is learn about it. Learn about it by acknowledging the violence in yourselves. Understand your conditioning. Understand why it is that you are, continue to be, potentially violent towards womyn. UNDERSTAND. The fact is, one in five Canadian men admit to behaving violently towards womyn. (those who admit it + those who do it and don't admit it + those who do it and don't realize it = ?/5)

Get out of denial.

Fuck ribbons.

Womyn are harassed, mutilated, killed, raped, beaten by men and you wear white ribbons in response. We don't want you counselling us, speaking for us, crying for us, crying for yourselves. You can, however (we, Holly and I, give you permission to) poster for us, letter write for us, get arrested for us, do the shit work for us, put yourselves on the line for us, the front line, learn for yourselves, challenge yourselves.. .and you might consider looking after the kids for us while we're out fighting for ourselves, our lives.

Now don't misunderstand us, hey. We're not opposed to White Ribbons per se. We thought it was cute initially. And it was a good beginning in that men acknowledged for the first time that they are responsible for male violence. But now that you've emerged, move forward. Do not let yourselves get caught up in the act of simply wearing a ribbon, feeling like you've done your good deed of the year. We require more. You owe us more.

—Holly & I

"That's fucking offensive"

One of the ways women suffer acts of male violence on a daily basis is when they are verbally harassed on the street by strangers. Because it is so openly perpetrated and commomplace, it is a good example of how violence is so easily accepted and dismissed in our society. It is amazing how little men understand how offensive and terrifying their actions can be, especially as strangers on the street.

Are women fair game as soon as they step out onto the street? What can you say when faced with this invasion of your person? Is there a way of coming back at them that will empower you or at least disempower them? If you stay quiet out of fear or out of rage or even out of not wanting to give them the satisfaction of a response, have you achieved anything? Have you given up power, no matter how illusory? Have you rendered yourself more or less vulnerable?

No matter what the intention of the man, no matter how polite they feel they are being, it is a violent act, and there is no excuse. To understand this, men have to try to put themselves in the position of the women. From the perspective of the women, any stranger is a potential rapist capable of any measure of violence. Even in a public place, in plain daylight, there are no assurances that anyone will come to your aid or that you will not be followed.

GRAPHIC BY PETER STEPHENSON

If men would take into consideration the power they have, in this case both as men and as strangers, and realize that it is not funny or cute or charming or complementary but that is frightening, abusive, offensive and demeaning, then some of them might stop.

As for women, when asked how they react, many said they froze out of fear. That they would be unable to say anything at all, whether they were alone or not, whether it be day or night, that it was instinctive to just lower their eyes in silence and quicken their step. This can be a necessary recourse to avoid putting yourself in even greater danger.

Others said that though fear would be the motivating force it often exposes itself as anger. Often this is the point at which they will blurt out an angry 'fuck off' or its equivalent. Still, others find it necessary, for their own self-esteem, to give the guy a piece of their mind "because if you don't challenge it it won't go away... and it can be very empowering."

—Piper Huggins

My best friend is your next-door neighbour

About this time last year, I decided to call my long, lost best friend. We had lost touch for a while, you know, different cities, different lives. I did most of the talking, the conversation went something like this:

"Yeah, well, I'm working on a book about violence against womyn...an anthology type of thing...and I'm researching at LEAF while I'm in Toronto...I've got tons of projects to do...so busy...stressed, you know...going back to Vancouver next week...let's get together...Can you get a car and drive up...we could have lunch...I'll borrow a credit card...like the 'good ol' days'...ha, ha,...so good to hear your voice..."

That was just before Christmas. She called me on New Year's Day Crying. Her husband of two months had just beaten her up. That was her New Year's Eve. Mine was spent eating sushi, skating, and dancing.

I was very clear in my response. I told her to get out of that house right away. Borrow a car, take a bus, anything, from London, where she was at, leave now, don't look back...we'll deal with the details later...

I spent the night waiting, all night. Looking out the window, staring at the empty street, knowing I would not see her that night. Clenching my teeth, fighting the fear, anger, rage burning inside. She never came. Never called.

Let me introduce you to my long lost best friend. You might be curious as to who this thing happens to, can happen to. She graduated from high school with a 98 per cent average. Every university she applied to wanted her, offering her scholarships and various enticements to win her over. She had this thing about medicine. Wanted to be a surgeon of some sort. Didn't matter, though. She could be anything. She knew literature backwards, had a way with words, could write, solve complex mathematical problems, comprehend science. Everyone had a crush on her in university, including myself. She had beauty and wit and personality.

Had? Where is she now? Last I heard, she moved out West somewhere. No one knows exactly where. Her family lost touch with her. She doesn't use her last name anymore. I can't find her.

She could be dead.

Critical feminist analysis is my speciality. I read book after book deciphering what womyn's oppression is, why it exists, how it exists, and what we can do to change it. I remember my attitude when I told her what my project was about. I was so cocky and self-assured. That is, before I knew her life. Then it became painful.

I have known violence all my life. Lived it. Fear it. Continue to fear it every night when I go to sleep. But when it was my best friend, the one with whom I shared all my dreams, the one whose dreams I believed in, it (the thing we live with everyday) became a gnawing pain in my gut, a reality I hadn't experienced before.

I live alone. Walk down the street alone to get home where I live alone. I fear the strangers around me. She fears the man with whom she shares her bed. I get home, and feel as though I arrived in safety. Her safety ends when she walks into her home.

I stopped writing my book.

—Lilyana Petrovic

PHOTO BY DANIELLE VALADE

Situation normal: violence and fear

I have a terrible sense of direction. I've been known to get lost only blocks from my house, and I've never been able to follow a map successfully. There are things that I've learned to do in order to accommodate for this, such as triple checking the signs in the Metro to making sure I'm travelling in the right direction.

Similarly, I've adjusted to the social implications of being a woman in our society, and have learned to accommodate for all the violence that women experience regularly. I rarely walk alone at night, but if I must do so, I remain hyper-alert and always walk with confidence. If I take a cab, I automatically check the driver's number in case of trouble. I know what to say to strange men who accost me on the street. I've learned to get out of a relationship quickly if the man I'm dating shows signs of violence when he's angry.

I often wonder if I've become as accepting of the violence in my life as I am of my poor sense of direction. Just as I automatically check street signs to make sure I'm headed the right way, so do I automatically check behind me before I unlock my front door. Violence is simply a fact of my life, of every woman's life. We've all become frighteningly accustomed to it.

Recently, I began receiving threats from a man I barely knew. For reasons I don't understand, this man wanted to hurt me. Badly. While the everyday threat of violence had desensitized me to some level, I was, nevertheless, terrified. Now I had always imagined that in the face of imminent danger, I could always depend on my friends for support and guidance.

I choose my friends very carefully and they are an exciting, eclectic group, as well as all being quite feminist and highly aware of the issue of violence against women. To my surprise, my friends all treated the incident with a distinct air of casualness. Most of them didn't even call me during the ordeal to find out if I was coping. My life was, quite literally, at stake. But my friends clearly had more pressing problems such as papers to write and parties to attend. I think that I had never felt as alone as I did during this period.

In retrospect, I recognize that my friends are as desensitized to male violence as I am. They know I am a strong woman, and probably assumed that I could handle this threat as I had any other. They are not insensitive jerks and they love me dearly, but they have come to accept that women get threatened and beaten and killed on a regular basis. The fact that I was being threatened was just business as usual in the world that we live in.

We need to examine how complacent we've become. Every day women are beaten by their husbands, threatened by their boyfriends, molested by their uncles and raped by their neighbours. Women are stalked by men they've never met, and killed by men they know and love. These actions are average, usual, and common: they are 'normal'.

Let us not, as women, continue to accomodate and adjust to them. Let us work to make them unusual, uncommon and deviant. When our friends are stalked and threatened and abused, let us not react as though it is simply normal. Because it is not. And yet, we live as though it is.

—Kristen Gilbert

Concordia Women's Centre: Drop in Mon-Tues & Thurs 10:30 am to 5, Wed 1pm to 5 pm. 2020 Mackay, downstairs, 848-7431.

Health Services: (LOY) 848-3575 (SGW) 848-3565. Staff will listen to victims, review safety procedures, referrals, medical assements and provide counselling, all on a confidential basis. Hours Mon to Fri. 9 am — 5 pm.

Concordia's Sexual Harassment Office: Call Sally Spilhaus at 848-4857 or drop by her office, K110, 2150 Bishop.

• Safety on campus •

Campus Security Desks: The university has four security desks open 24 hours a day located on the main floor of the following buildings:
SGW- Hall Building (H), J.W. McConnell Building (LB), and Visual Arts Building (VA).
LOY- Administration Building (AD)
• If you would like to lay charges against your assailant, do not hesitate to file a complaint with police.

Campus Security 24-Hour Emergency Number:
SGW: 848-3717
LOY: 848-3707
• Dial only last four digits within the University.
Red emergency phones are a direct link with security.

• Shelters for women •

Auberge Transition: 481-0495/ 481-0496.

La Chainon: 845-0151.

Women's Aid Inc.: 270-8291.

Maison Marguerite: 932-2250.

Maison Flora Tristan: 939-3463.

La Dauphinelle: 598-7779.

Inter-val 1175: 933-8488.

Maison de l'Ancre: 374-5573.

Maison d'Hebergement d'Anjou: 353-5908.

Maison d'Hebergement le Parados: 637-3529.

Multi-Femmes: 523-1095.

Auberge Shalom pour Femmes: 731-0833.

Native Woman's Shelter of Montreal: 933-4688.

• Treatment for abusive men •

McGill Family Clinic: 737-7208.

Option: 527-1657.

PRO-GAM Inc: 270-8462.

AGENDA

Continued from page 2

Loss and Grieving: a twelve session counselling group to be held on Thursdays, from January 28 to April 25, 1993, 3-5pm. (Fee: $20) If interested, call Counselling and Development to arrange information appointment. 848-3545.

Model UN Group: meetings on Thursdays, 7pm (sharp!) at 2150 Bishop, Annex D. Everyone welcome. Info: 848-7409.

Hey you psych students! As the largest department in the school, come to the Psych students association meetings and speak your mind! Tuesdays, P-205 (2020 Mackay). Info: 848-7487.

Montréal Sexual Assault Centre, 24 hour crisis line: 934-4504.

Maison Tanguay is looking for books in good condition for their library. Recent knitting magazines and French bestsellers are especially welcome. Call Terri: 934-3176

Careers Library: stumped about your future occupation? There are a multitude of jobs which could meet your interests & abilities. The Careers Library provides a wide variety of materials on career planning and job search technique. Counselling and Development: 848-3545/3555.

Problems remembering what you read? Taking notes? Studying for exams? Keeping up with assignments? Counselling & Development offers a Learning Assistants program that is completely free for students. Just call for an appointment: 848-3545, 848-3555, or drop by H-440 (SGW) or 2490 West Broadway (LOY).

Down on your luck and even KD is looking real gourmet right about now? The Campus Ministry has a food voucher programme, for more information call 848-3588.

Are you stressed out? Don't worry, we're here to listen. Come see us at the Peer Helper Centre located at 2130 Bishop.

Services for Disabled Students - Advocacy and Support Services. We need qualified and willing volunteers to help us deliver many of the services our students use, eg. readers, tutors assistants. For more information: 848-3525; (Voice and TDD) - SGW H-580, 848-3536; (Voice and TDD) Loyola AD-121. Office hours: 9am - 5pm.

Free: writing assistants: term papers and written assignment? Help to get started, organize ideas, identify areas that could be stronger. H-440 and 2490 West Broadway. Info: Counselling and Development, 848-3555/3545.

The Legal Information Service: If you have problems with your landlord, or with a contract that you signed, or you are looking for information on divorce, we can help! Offices at room CC-326, 7141 Sherbrooke St. West, 848-4960 from 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday. Services are free and confidential.

AIDS hotline: CSAM (Comité SIDA Aide Montréal) 282-9991.

WOMEN

Women performers! If you do music, dance, poetry, or performance but there seems to be no venues, don't despair! CUSA Women's Issues is starting a monthly Women Performers Night at Reggie's next semester. For info, call Emily or Kristen at 848-7474.

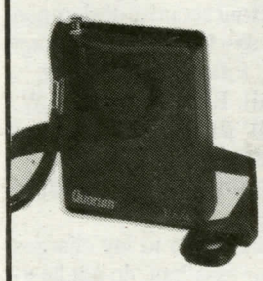
Biblio-café Labyris: lesbian cultural centre café and library open from 7-10pm, 2025 Gilford every Thursday. Info: 524-1336.

HIV+ women and Women living with AIDS: the centre for AIDS services of Montreal provides info Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm, 1168 Ste-Catherine W, suite 202. Info: 954-0170.

Feminist tours of Montreal! Info: L'Autre Montréal, 521-7802.

The new edition of Concordia Resources for Women book available at the Status of Women office, 2150 Bishop, and at the Concordia Women's Centre, 2020 Mackay, downstairs.

PERSONAL ATTACK ALARM



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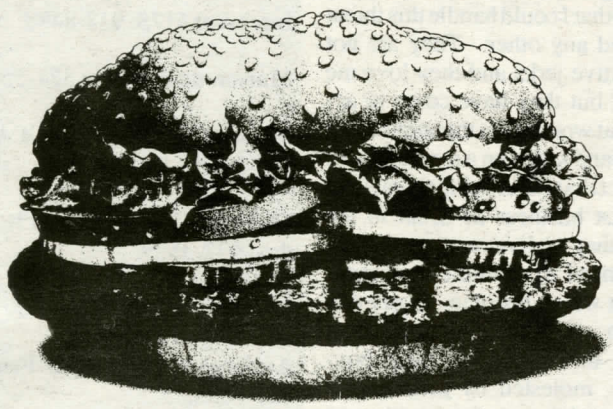

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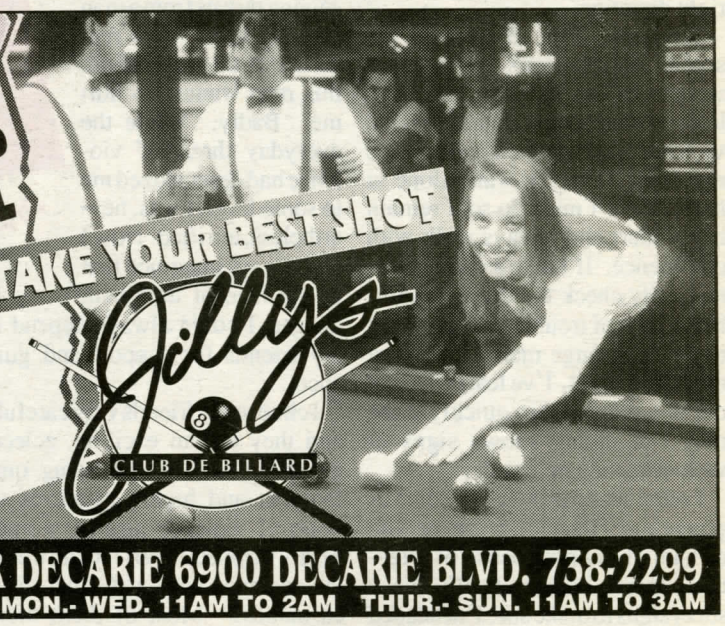

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FRINGE ARTS

Musée serves up tasty dish

Avant-garde trip

by Celia J. McBride

Une création.

Le Voyage de Pénélope was performed Tuesday night at La Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal. Nathalie Derome is the creator of this stupefying spectacle of dance, drama, music and visual arts.

Danielle Lecourtois, Marie-Stéphane Ledoux and Miriam Vignola collaborate and perform under Derome's direction.

Le Voyage de Pénélope is based on the life of Ernestine Trudel, who was Derome's maternal grandmother's sister. Trudel left her home in Shawinigan in the 1920s to go and learn the magical craft of weaving with the Navajos. She returned home 20 years later *saine et sauve*.

Lecourtois, Ledoux and Vignola tell the story in a series of abstract, bizarre, yet visually and audibly intriguing scenes.

The opening scene has a film of a continually changing landscape painting projected on one of three tapestries. They serve as the stage backdrops. The tapestries are woven to large brass frames on wheels and throughout Le Voyage are used as dance partners, sex partners, and magic curtains, among other things.

As the film is rolling, music charges the air. Strings are being played with anything but a bow, and a loud noise that sounds like hard, dry wood breaking in slow motion, groans.

Many fingers pierce from behind the tapestries and run slowly up and down creating ripples and waves upon the landscape. The stage is covered with massive mounds of what appears to be white velour spaghetti glowing in the black light. The mounds begin moving–a person suddenly emerges from beneath.

A woman is slowly pulled toward the tapestries, disappearing under them, taking her white bedding and strips of ecstasy fabric, with her. The first scene ends with many more wild and weird acts to follow.

The little dialogue throughout Le Voyage is surprisingly humorous, which happily relieves some of the tension.

In one scene, two of the women are joined to each other by a long and wide piece of burgundy fabric—a major motif throughout the production. Each end of this material has been spun around each of the women like some kind of *haute-couture* evening gown so that while these women are dressed for success, neither can go anywhere without the other.

One of the women mournfully cries out how impossible it is to live like this and asks how she will ever find a husband. Her counterpart consoles her while they zig-zag across the stage.

Meanwhile, the third woman has more of that velour spaghetti draped about her like a gaudy winter coat. Gaudy because the spaghetti is now bright green.

The three women use their voices to sing sweetly, scream violently and produce odd sounds.

Le Voyage de Pénélope breaks all boundaries of the traditional night at the theatre. To categorize this dizzying array of hallucinatory sights and sounds as performance art would be too normalizing.

Performance art, like any category, has limitations and boundaries. *Le Voyage de Pénélope* is a wacko voyage of continuous creation that defies classification.

***Le Voyage de Pénélope**, playing at La Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, 185 St. Catherine West, until Sunday.*

PHOTO DANIELLE HÉBERT

BY JAMES-JASON LEE

Dr. Todd (Jesse Evans) and Filomena (Joan Butterworth) get it on.

The 'Chin' goes down

by James-Jason Lee

"Being in the wrong place at the wrong time," explains Steve Gallucio, is an important theme in his latest production, *Sex, Lies and Brian Mulroney*.

Gallucio is the writer and director of last summer's Fringe Festival play *Brady Bunch : The Hidden Episode*.

Galluccio's new play uses the shooting of Mulroney as a launching to explore the sexuality of Seawell Turtlebaum (Rob Martin), the alleged assassin. With media scrums, flashbacks, confessions and the dialogue of two time/space transcending aunts, Gallucio drags the audience through the soap-opera antics of Seawell's sexual crisis.

Seawell's ex-wife, sex therapist and lover search for a possible motivation for the shooting.

Galluccio stressed: "I'd like to mention that I love Brian Mulroney as a person. He just so happens to be Prime Minister."

While staying away from politics, the play gets into a seriously silly skirmish on the sexual front. Galluccio also takes time to target racism, sexism, fascism and homophobia. But farcical sex dominates the stage.

At one point, Seawell yells: "What is this? A *Three's Company* episode?"

The cast (including Joan Butterworth, Jesse Evans, Janis Kirshner, Sophie Lanza, and Michelle) was energetic and irreverent during their Wednesday night dress rehearsal. Sheltered in the cozy performance space of Theatre Montréalité, the grim premise receded and the honest biting humour came forward as Seawell's sexuality got bent out of shape with a final push from two subconscious characters, Gender and Bender.

The set, a sordid arrangement with a mushy couch and a lonely table, matched the play's bluntness. The lighting, considering the space's limits, was adequate, though at times it left the actors in an undramatic dimness.

Punchy and funny, *Sex, Lies and Brian Mulroney*, is the right play at the right time.

***Sex, Lies and Brian Mulroney**, by Steve Galluccio at Theatre Montréalité, 4297 St. Laurent, Dec. 3-5, 10-12, 9:30 pm. Suggest donation $5.*

Telethon debt

continued from page 3

have turned up nothing.

Toone said although CUSA gave $2,000 to the project, they had very little to do with the telethon because "we didn't have any confidence in their (Kish and Jedeikin) ability to pull it off."

The university will have little choice but to pay the $15,000 because of the depth of its involvement in the telethon, added Toone.

Boisvert sees things differently. He said he will meet with CUSA and CUTV to determine who will be liable for the debt—CUSA, CUTV, Kish and Jedeikin or Concordia.

Encouraged to continue

In a preliminary report to the vice-rector services office, Kish and Jedeikin wrote that a severe lack of funding nearly led to the cancellation of the telethon, but they were pushed by the university to continue.

"Advice from all sides—especially in the wake of the horrible Concordia shootings—told us to keep going," they wrote.

Kish said members of the Library Opening Committee also strongly urged that the show go on.

The Special Projects division of the rector's offics arranged for the telethon to occupy atrium space in the McConnell Library Complex as part of the opening celebrations for the new building.

"Tnere was a lot of enthusiasm from the committee members who wanted to open up the building with a big bang," Kish said. "We informed them every step of the way of the risks and benefits but we were encouraged to go further."

Second telethon in '94?

Colin Kish is currently reviewing plans for a second World's Longest Day in 1994 to absorb some of the debt created by this year' effort.

But Boisvert said he will not even entertain the thought of another such telethon.

"If they (Kish and Jedeikin) think after leaving us with the bag they'll be able to do this again, for whatever worthy cause...no way."

Groups organize to fight media's images of women

continued from page 7

are the new gods."

Pichette is a professor of Adult Education at the Université de Québec À Montréal (UQAM) and has been fighting violence in the media for many years. He criticized the media for their lack of consideration for people.

"Violence in the media and on television is sensationalist...and is a devaluation of people," he said

Both Cukier and Pichette encouraged students to get involved fighting sexist or violent imagery in the media.

Currently Pichette is working to establish a television viewer council.to monitor the media.

Cukier recommended working with the media to effect change. As the media is a part of our environment, she said, it's important to work with it,by creating positive images and other type of representation of women and men.

The presentation was sponsored by RAVEN (Realizing A Violence-free Environment Now), a working group of Q-PIRG, is comprised of women and men working to promote awareness of violence against women. The group is putting together a resource centre about violence against women, as well as promoting speakers, films and workshops on the topic.

"We are aiming towards becoming a direct action group, directed towards specific events throughout the city, such as postering the city and targetting racist, sexist advertising," said Kathy Fretz, a student at Concordia and one of the founding members of RAVEN, which started up in Sept. 1991.

"We are working at...having some sort of impact and changing something," she said. "I am hopeful that by January there will be a framework where activists will be able to go out and do direct action things, promoting awareness and research skills, on issues of gender violence and racism.

"Violence against women is many things—economic, racist, lesbophobic, homophobic, and sexist."

RAVEN can be contacted at 848-7585 MediaWatch can be reached at 270-7069.

'Indecent' women on trial

continued from page 7

know how much the protests did for women's rights.

"It's not an issue which people feel that passionately about," she said. "I'd rather see good reporting on women's issues, not pictures of leering men. The greater issues never came across in the media."

But Vanesterik believes the fight to de-sexualize breasts will have ramifications for issues such as violence against women.

"There is psychological evidence which suggests the whole idea of naturalizing breasts lessens the tendency of male violence to women."

Final arguments will be heard Dec. 14.

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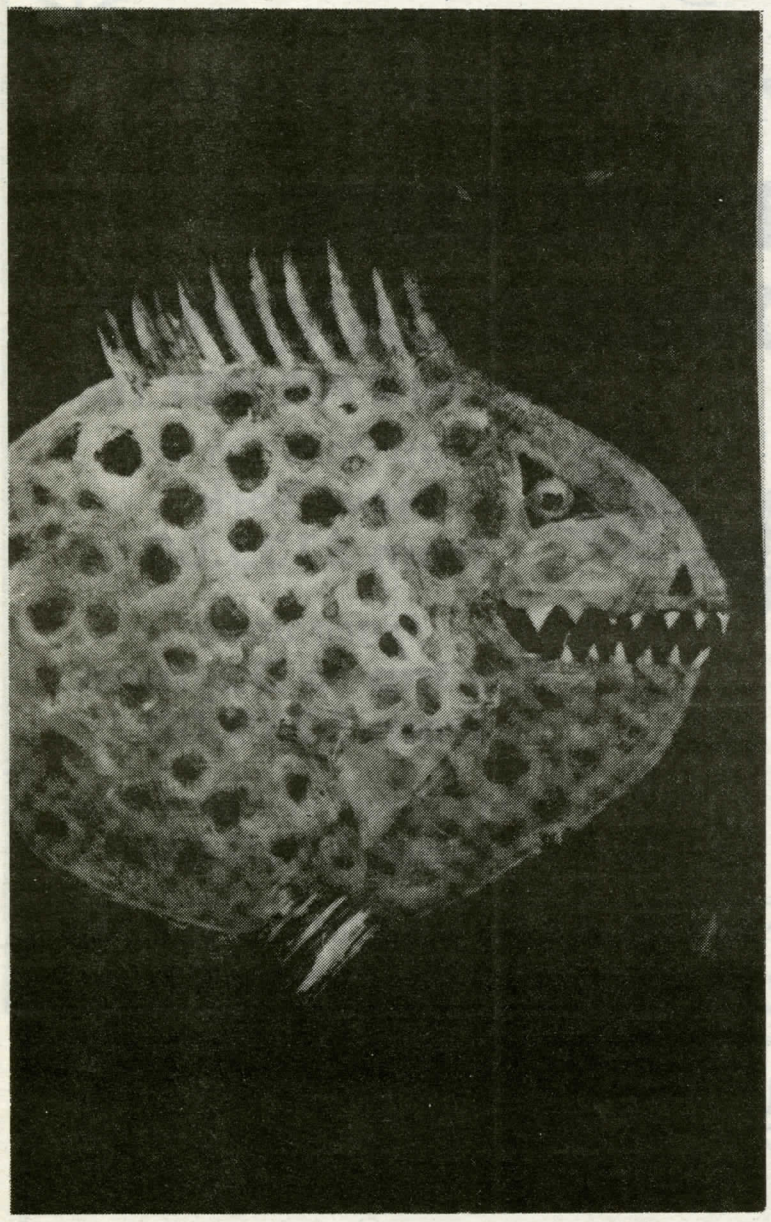


Torn and worn

by Chris Howlett

Local Montreal rock group **The Dysfunctions** have released a new CD, *Torn*. According to lead singer Stephen Clare, the album deals with conflict and reconciliation, and 'Generation X' themes: the environment, child abuse, native rights and drug abuse.

The Dysfunctions play a straightforward brand of honky-tonk rock'n'roll, like the **Georgia Satellites** or a less blues influenced George Thorogood.

The songs on this album work best when the grungy bar-room sound is matched to the content of the songs. *Take Me In Your Arms* has a jubilant and exciting rhythm, yet the music doesn't match the lyrics about drug addiction. It is effective, however, if taken as a straightforward love song. It is also the most arresting rock on the album.

Love On The Rocks is a more cohesive piece with Clare's voice matching his lyrics. He sings with the appropriate feel:

With a shot of Tequila,
Whiskey straight, no chaser
Without litres of liquor
He just cannot face her

When **The Dysfunctions** get hold of a good guitar hook and chorus, they are able to use its full potential. In *Broken Bottles*, the singer's voice, the competent sax work and the guitarist's rough edged guitar licks work well together, making it a convincingly rowdy piece.

However, other songs—*I.C.U.* and *She's Already There*—are simple and predictable.

The best and worst thing that can be said about this album is its consistent nature. A little more range in the singers' vocals and a more inventive use of the sax and mandolin (used to near perfection on *Token Role Totem*) would help.

Despite the occasional weak spots, there is enough competent musicianship on *Torn* to make **The Dysfunctions** a local band worth taking note of.

During a recent telephone interview with Clare, he spoke of upcoming changes in store for the band.

"Unfortunately our bass player, Tom Cernoch, is scheduled to be deported to Czechoslovakia on the fourth of December. So unless there's some kind of reprieve from the minister, we're going to lose him," Clare said, "However, **The Dysfunctions** have survived all kinds of difficulties. In the past, we almost broke up at one point because of a drug problem I was having, but things are looking up in other ways."

Indeed, after about four years on the Montreal music scene, the band is finally getting some attention.

"Yeah, the C.D. is doing pretty well," said Clare. "We're in rotation on CHOM now and our first single—*Love On The Vine*—is being made into a video.

"But," he added, "I'm not really into the marketing side of things!"

Capacity loud for jazz and poetry night

by Francis Lafortune

The sun set early for the jazz at *Capacity 101*, last Wednesday's rainy jazz/poetry evening at Hell's Kitchen. As a musician I was interested in the jazz part so I attended the show in good faith. The band, **The World's Most Lyrical Band**, played great modern jazz.

The evening, however, was more of a poetry night than promised.

The show presented poets mostly from Montreal, Boston and New York, including Governer-General Award winning Erin Mouré, Mary di Michele, Robyn Sarah and emerging voices Phil Moscovitch, Doug Isaac, Cathy A. Coley and Eric Sigler. They presented their poetry in readings that were very emotional—some very insightful and some way over my head.

The big experience in poetry readings is to detect the poets who read not because they have something to say, but because they *have* to say something.

The evening also featured many book giveaways, thanks to Véhicule Press and DC Press. Just when I thought the everything was over, I witnessed the beacon cutting through the fog, the one transcendent moment of truth and clarity in the entire show: the open-mike contest.

Local poets read until the wee hours of the morning and fought like sharks for the overwhelming $20, yes, $20. The winner of the contest was Concordia student Dan Mucha who read letters from his ex-girlfriend in French in a torrential frenzy.

The night's truly great poets were eliminated by the corporate-like, open-mike, three-minute limit rule.

Organizers promise another **Capacity 101** during the last week of January at Hell's Kitchen.

Seasonal Spins

by Robert Gauvin

Minstrels On Speed
Gone
Independent

This Edmonton group recently visited the friendly confines of Reggie's Pub in support of their latest release Gone. The tape is representive of their live sound: alternative guitars which at one point or another come out sounding like Canadian alternative power pop.

What makes the **Minstrels On Speed** stand out is their balance of simultaneous male-female vocals both in lead and harmonies. So impressive are the vocal arrangement that they take their modestly alright songs and turns them into almost perfect packages. Kelly McPhillamey shows off her dreary/dreamy vocals on Tracks, *Hole in My Head*, *Fist Puppet* and *Splinter*.

The Minstrels **On Speed** certainly have found the right blend to bring them to the forefront of Edmonton's fragmented, but vibrant indie scene.

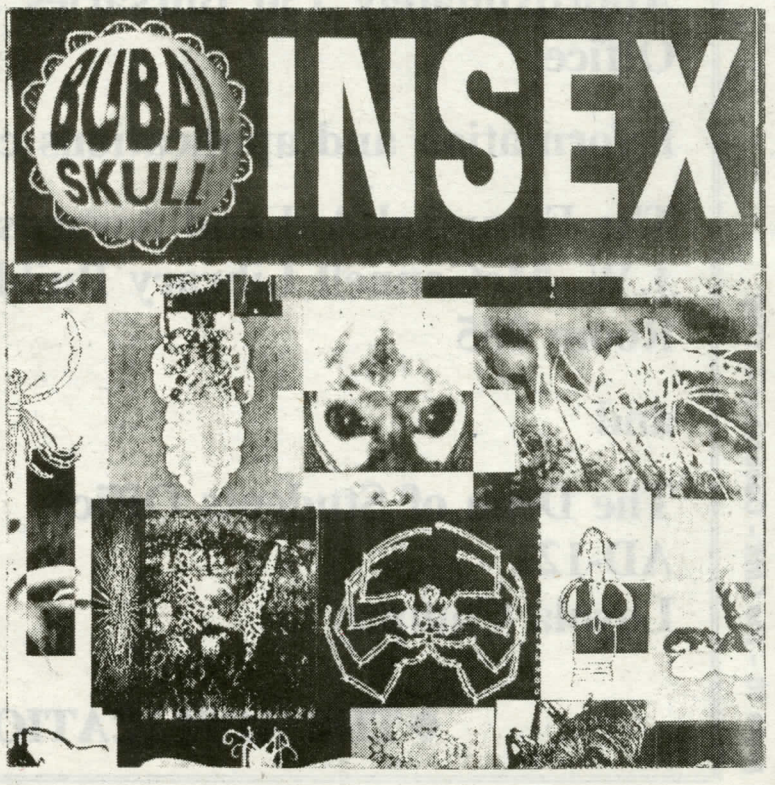
Bubaiskull
Insex (7 inch)
Cinnamon Toast/Cargo

Sure, four songs is hard to get a feel for a band. But it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out these dudes at one time lived away from the rugged streets of their home in Halifax.

Bubaiskull, in other words, does not play your typical east coast music. Their guitars clang to more of a **Blissful** Montreal sound than the typical folkloric punk of the **Jellyfishbabies**.

Best tracks on *Insex* include *Diamond Black* and Allison Outhit's stab at *Gun Shy*.

Since their inception last May, Haligonians have given **Bubaiskull** lots of attention—and with reason. The **Skulls** play a wicked style of modern day alternative **Cramps**-like guitar rock. Perhaps an indication the Maritime scene is ready to come out of its shell.



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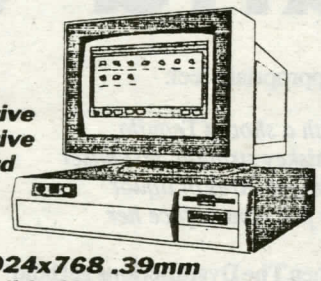

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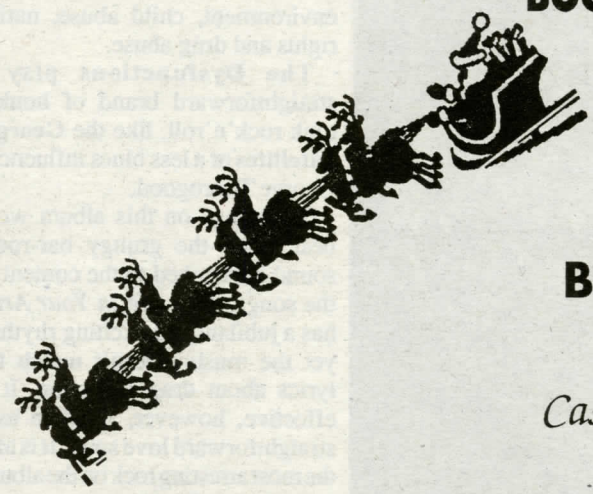

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FRINGE ARTS

BY IAN WESTBURY

Varma: plays–people–politics

by Paul S. Jeszenszky

Immigrants to Canada are rarely portrayed as unhappy people. In fact, it's usually the hosts of immigrants who are portrayed as upset. But Indian playwright Rahul Varma begs to differ.

"The first experience of immigrants is not very good," said Varma, 40. "This is to be expected because they're adjusting to a new culture. There are, however, instances where unnecessary pain could be avoided."

Varma coordinates and writes for the Teesri Duniya Theatre Collective when he is not working as a McGill medical technician.

Teesri Duniya—"Third World" in Hindustani—covers issues such as immigration, racism, sexism and multiculturalism in Canadian life. The collective used to be all-Indian group but now includes people from other backgrounds, casting them by ability only.

"We have a distinct political agenda and aren't afraid to admit it," said Varma, commenting on the former structure of the collective.

The collective's first play, *Juloos*, was from India and hit a nerve in the Indian community. The play, whose name means "procession", discussed the traditional sexism and oppresion of women in Indian society. As Varma said, "We didn't make any friends in the Indian community but showed many what they were doing."

His first attempt at writing an English language play—the Quebec Drama festival winner *Job Stealer*—was infuenced by his and other immigrants' experiences..

When Varma and Dipti Gupta, his wife, arrived from India in 1976, he was a medical technician. Because of his lack of "Canadian experience" he worked without pay for seven months at the Royal Victory hospital assuming he would be given a job when there was an opening. Gupta, an actor and producer of considerable talent in India, had similar problems with the"Canadian experience".

Varma feels that many see immigrants as job stealers. "If you look at the jobs most immigrants work at, you'll see the jobs naturalized Canadians refuse."

"A woman reporter from a Montreal paper went to a factory where many immigrants are hired," said Varma. "She wanted to see if stories about immigrants working in horrendous conditions and recieving less than minimum wage were true. She left on her first day with a bloody nose."

Varma, who writes first in Hindustani, then has a co-author help translate, has written on many issues.

Isolated Incident, which is about the late Anthony Griffin, originally saw little support from the Black community. Varma said that once they saw it and how his collective performed it, they endorsed it.

Griffin, a 19-year-old black man, was fatally shot five years ago in the parking lot behind MUC police station 15 in N.D.G. Griffin was picked up by MUC Constable Allan Gosset and his partner after refusing to pay his cab fare. Gosset shot an unarmed Griffin when he started walking away from the officers.

Land Where The Trees Talk, discussing the Cree and the hydroelectric projects, had a similar situation. "The Native peoples didn't support our production, they asked why there were no Natives involved" he said. "They changed their mind as well, once they saw the play."

Equal Wages, deals with pay equity.

His most recent work, No Man's *Land*, discusses an immigrant family's plight in Canada and a struggle for land. The main character's search for land of his own brings him to face another divided country: this time Canada instead of India.

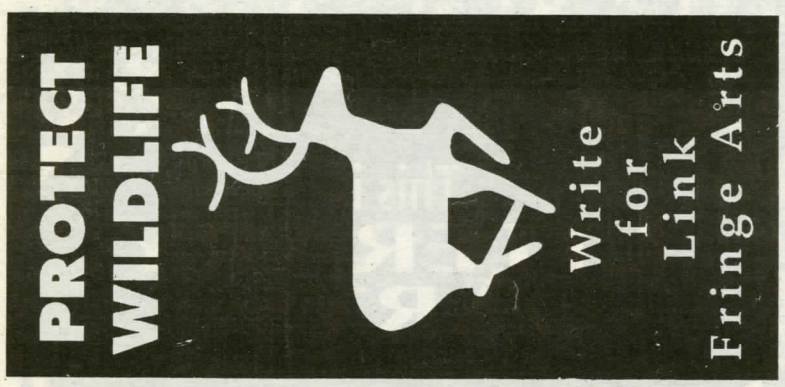
Varma and Teesri Duniya are curently working on a play about violence against women.

"We will be doing a couple of plays about women and violence," he said. "It is a growing problem that needs to be adressed. It is one that exists in India as well as here in Canada."

House of Blue Leaves is a comedy/drama about a zookeeper's ambition to become recognized for his songwriting ability. In the midst of all this ambition he manages to alienate his devoted wife and takes a star-struck girlfriend who only wants him for his potential fame.

The play has a nice energy, is fun to watch, and funny in places. Atwater Library is a comfortable atmosphere for the play. The acting was quite good which makes the play worth seeing, but it lacked a certain substance and relativity. With famine and the wars going on in the world this play offers little enlightenment and fails to take advantage of this effective medium. Some of the metaphors such as the one of shoes with open toes were "like two Rin Tin Tin Tins taking a leak" were odd-sounding.

– by Teresa Stiltz



Back spins

by Anuska Garcia

Pop Will Eat Itself
The Looks or the Lifestyle
RCA/BMG

This Brit pop band has seen acid house and techno rise and fall and pretty much have stayed constant as a hipno mix band, pixilating samples and reusing old 80s lyrics especially on the *Bulletproof* remix.

Great dance club fodder, as sweet and sexy as poppers. Includes the syncopated *England's Finest* , Spanish flamenco guitar riffs on *Eat Me, Drink Me Love Me, Kill Me* (Alice In Wonderland meets Pedro Almodovar) and a sample from **Jane's Addiction**'s *Ocean Size* on *Ruff Justice* and very aggressive off-techno-body-beat on *Urban Futuristic (Son of South Central)*, a possible allusion to **Bodycount** and the LA rap generation.

Various Artists
Zoo Rave 1
Zoo/BMG

Not nearly as good as **PWEI** yet it is still contagious buttshaggin' stuff. Most of the DJ's are from LA or Chicago but somehow you could fit this into your Can-con prerequisites with **Xenon**'s track (a 21-year-old DJ from Windsor,Ontariooohhh!!!).

High points are **Smashing Atoms**'s *Cannibal 44*, **AAR**'s *Raggamuffin Techno* and **Pood, Bhud 'n' Phlug**'s *Duelling Techno*.

Flotsam and Jetsam
Cuatro
Geffen/MCA

Cuatro kicks in the groin for you, Geffen.

Soundgarden's Chris Cornell writes a tune with them called *The Message*. Someone oughta tell Chrissy-boy to stay away from these California prettyboys' crapmetal propaganda. They're about as inventive as shoegazer rock. And give it up, boys, there is only so much you can rip off of **Metallica**.

Sven Gali
Sven Gali
BMG

Maybe it's just a fatal personal flaw of mine but everytime anything remotely cheesy glam fall into my hands my blood begins to simmer. The album is cheesy metal littered with the occasional white-girl-wearing-a-long-white-dress-on-a-white-horse ballads delivered by the man with the longest hair in Toronto. The only selling point to this album that they could ever hope to market is the parental advisory sticker they willingly placed on the cover. Is this Hell?

Give me death metal or give me death.

Lunachicks
Binge and Purge
Indie

Aha! Now here's a fine young band: New York City's babysitters on acid all-female scum band with dyke-core here'n'there.

High schoolish bulimia talking about everything from diet pills to throwing up your lunch to apathy to failing school all in disposable fun and with loads of guitars, sugar cream and lube. The album has awesome boy-voices as Becky pulls a mean yowl and melodic drawl and the **Lunachicks** trademark off-key unison. Special trax: *Apathetic, Plugg,*(for those wet days) and *L'il Debbie*. **L7** can't even compare. Check out the binging and purging cover.

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Epson AP3250	$266.00	9600/9600 Int.Fax/Modem	$299.00	Windows 3.1	$74.00

Warranty Information
- All Motherboards are guaranteed for a period of **three years**.
- All monitors are guaranteed for a period of **one year**.
- All Ram is guaranteed for **life**.
- Most other components are guaranteed for **two years**.

4987 King Edward Ave. Tel: 481- 8180

Statistics *by Sue Skoda*

In the room there was a clock. The kind that folds in three to fit inside a suitcase, even the smallest suitcase. There was a square face on the clock. It was nearly six o'clock. Come on Sue, just tell the story. Like I was saying, in the room there was this clock. "You don't have to talk about it Sue if you don't want to." It's late. He's getting tired. I'm telling you about the clock. I fell like talking about the stupid clock okay? Okay. So there was a clock. Easy. What else. Also crayon marks on the dresser which hadn't even been finished. Stained, I mean. Crayon checkmarks, one on each drawer.

Laura and me, we are standing just inside the metro entrance. She is saying, ya, and I am saying, ya, I know what you mean, and yet this knowledge is not reassuring. We are statistics, the two of us. We are 1 in every 3 women. That means we are 2 of 6. I usually get about as far as the clock, talking. We count the women coming through the revolving door. One, two, three. One, two, three. Laura has a more polite way of saying it. Sexual assault. I believe the term is rape. She can talk about it. Only, she wonders, how did I get into that room. If only I could remember that part, everything would be okay:

Like I was saying there was this clock. I remember it all but I can't say it. And so there I am crying again. "Why didn't you say something Sue I would have stopped you know." Ya but I'm not going to stop every time for something that happened 8 years ago. 8 years ago. Who wants to know. I'm just tired, you know. I get really tired after, you know. I watch you jump up and go, zip up your pants and stroll off to the kitchen like it's nothing and I lie there as heavy as lead, just tired, just tired.

"Just go to bed now Sue." No, I'm gonna take a shower, I just want to take a shower now okay, I won't be long. No you go to sleep it's okay I just want to take a shower.

Laura is so thin and pale. Her skin burns red under the scalding hot stream ofd water. She is scrubbing and scrubbing, to wash away the strain. But it's a stain and it stays.

I know. I know it does.

Interfaith Relations: Dealing with Differences

A presentation and discussion of the dynamics related to interfaith couples

Guest Lecturer: ESTHER PEREL, M.A., is a dynamic training and program consultant with the Interfaith Couples Program at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA in New York. She has appeared on various TV programs including the Oprah Winfrey Show.

FEE: $5.00

Sunday, December 13, 1992 - 7:30 pm

Saidye Bronfman Centre Theatre, 5170 Côte Ste. Catherine Rd.

This program is funded by the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Montreal and organized by: B'nai Brith Women of Canada in conjunction with the Community Services Department of the YM-YWHA, Montreal Jewish Community Centres.

INFO: Corrie Sirota-Frankel, YM-YWHA Community Services Director
737-6551 local 230

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RAPED
by Anita DeMeo

First I was raped by a gang of guys that were
out roamin' the streets at midnight ...

(I shouldn't have unlocked the car doors after my boyfriend
returned with a jack to change the tire.)

Then I was raped by the hospital ...

"We don't take rape cases here."
incredible dose of phenobarbitol to shut me up
internal exam but crusted blood and dirt left on my face

(I shouldn't have screamed at that nurse in Emergency.)

Then I was raped by the police ...
standing naked in the yard I asked for a jacket
"What's an italian girl like you doin' in this neighborhood?"
left in a room to overhear
how they tortured one of the guys they caught
to get names of some of the others

(I shouldn't have been going to visit my friends
who live in that neighborhood.)
(I shouldn't have had friends who were black.)
(I shouldn't have had friends)

Then I was raped by my family ...
couldn't get the courage to tell them until my sister guessed
"I hope it doesn't get in the newspapers."

(I shouldn't have been born)

Then I was raped by the courts ...

"Tell your story."
"Tell your story again."
"Tell your story again to the people in that room."
behind the door, a balcony, a microphone, rows of people,
a photo of my beaten face on the wall
I almost faint

(I shouldn't have run out of the courthouse crying ...
just 'cause I couldn't go through with it ...
just 'cause I couldn't take anymore.)

UNSILENCE
by Michelle Tracy

Audre Lorde, I never even saw
your face or photograph, and yet I curled
in Hingston's toilet stalls to cry when told.
Natasha's glad your cancer hurting's stopped,

but me, I'm like a child: how would you cease,
how COULD you cease like that and promise no
further inspiring; spiralling down, I go,
sliced from the blooming mother mind of yours.

But greater still, the numbing knowing that
your cancer journals cry your voice unsealed —
unsilenced; that you spoke in spite of fear
and in that joy-bare city even laughed.

your dying leaves me woman-silent: leaves
me tear-stained, forced, uncurl'd, to learn to speak.

Returning
by Jan hermiston

the video. lavender earrings
shelter sweatshirt, purple shoes.
this woman knows
Andrea Dworkin and Emma Goldman.

this woman is shamefaced
returning the video.
she strides out of the shop
managing only tiny steps.

unwanted and unexpected
smut smacks hard.
in the "comedy"
gangrape is reality
co-rapists sprinkle beer
over rapist and victim.

she can never forget
this scene of horror.
eyes downcast admit
she paid for

our mutual humiliation.

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